AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer-implemented system for assisting an operator of in analyzing an embroidery design which will be used by an embroidery machine to manufacture make an embroidered fabric from an embroidery design using a parameter in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size, said computer-implemented system comprising:

a knowledge base of a plurality of the parameters for making the embroidered fabric relating to embroidery designs;

a rules base of rules interrelating two or more of the parameters;

selection software responsive to the operator for permitting the operator to select a parameter from the plurality of parameters and for defining an additional parameter from the plurality of parameters where the defined parameter is a function of the operator selected parameter;

analysis software for applying the rules to the defined parameter and for generating one or more recommended manufacturing parameters from the plurality of parameters, where the recommended manufacturing parameter is a function of the defined parameter; and

display software for providing a display corresponding to the selected and defined parameters and corresponding to one or more recommended manufacturing · parameters such that the one or more recommended manufacturing parameters define parameters for manufacturing the embroidery design embroidered fabric using the embroidery machine.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The computer-implemented system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of parameters includes a parameter in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size.

Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The computer-implemented system of claim 1 wherein the selected parameter is project/fabric type wherein the selection software

2

designates two or more defined parameters and wherein the defined parameters comprise fabric thickness and fabric stretch.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The computer-implemented system of claim 4 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The computer-implemented system of claim 1 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter and wherein the analysis software applies the rules to the modified defined parameter.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The computer-implemented system of claim 1 wherein the knowledge base includes comments, photographs or multimedia presentations which are a function of the selected parameter, the defined parameter, and/or one or more of the recommended manufacturing parameters and wherein the display software displays the provided comments, photographs or multimedia presentations.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for assisting an operator of an embroidery machine in analyzing an embroidery design using a knowledge base of parameters for making an embroidered fabric using a parameter in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size relating to embroidery designs and a rules base of rules interrelating the parameters, said method comprising the steps of:
    designating selected and defined parameters for making the embroidered fabric relating to the embroidery design where the defined parameter is a function of the selected parameter;
    applying the rules to the selected and defined parameter[[s]];
    generating one or more recommended manufacturing parameters as a function of the application of the rules to the defined parameter; and
    displaying the selected and defined parameters and the one or more recommended manufacturing parameters such that the one or more recommended manufacturing parameters define parameters for manufacturing the embroidered fabric embroidery design using the embroidery machine.

3

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8 wherein the ~~plurality of~~ parameters includes a parameter in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size.

Claim 10. (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein the selected parameter is the project/fabric type, further comprising the step of designating two or more defined parameters and wherein the defined parameters comprise fabric thickness and fabric stretch.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11 further comprising modifying the defined parameter.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 8 further comprising modifying the defined parameter.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 8 further comprising providing comments, photographs, or multimedia presentations which are a function of the selected parameter, the defined parameter, and one or more recommended manufacturing parameters and displaying the provided comments, photographs or multimedia presentations.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A system for assisting an operator <u>of</u> ~~in analyzing an embroidery design which will be used by~~ an embroidery machine to manufacture an embroidered fabric <u>from an embroidery design using a parameter in at least one of the following categories: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size</u>, said system comprising:
a personal computer including:
    a knowledge base memory of parameters <u>for making the embroidered fabric</u> ~~relating to embroidery designs~~; and
    a rules base memory of rules interrelating the parameters;

4

and including a processor for executing:

selection software responsive to the operator for permitting the operator to select a parameter and for defining an additional parameter where the defined parameter is a function of the operator selected parameter;

analysis software for applying the rules to the defined parameter and for generating one or more recommended manufacturing parameters as a function of the defined parameter; and

display software for providing a display corresponding to the selected and defined parameters and corresponding to one or more recommended manufacturing parameters such that the one or more recommended manufacturing parameters define parameters for manufacturing the <u>embroidered fabric</u> ~~embroidery design~~ using the embroidery machine.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The system of claim 15 wherein the parameters includes at least one of the following categories of parameters: hooping technique, stabilization technique, topping material, backing material, thread weight, thread type, needle type, needle size, embroidery density, project/fabric type, fabric thickness, fabric density, fabric stretch and design size.

Claim 17. (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented): The system of claim 15 wherein the selected parameter is project/fabric type wherein the selection software designates two or more defined parameters and wherein the defined parameters comprise fabric thickness and fabric stretch.

Claim 19 (original): The system of claim 18 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter.

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 15 wherein the operator may modify the defined parameter and wherein the analysis software applies the rules to the modified defined parameter.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The system of claim 15 wherein the knowledge base includes comments, photographs, or multimedia presentations which are a function of the selected parameter, the defined parameter, and/or one or more of the

5

recommended manufacturing parameters and wherein the display software displays the provided comments, photographs, or multimedia presentations.

6